THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI T. ANJAIAH): (a) 3 (Three).

(b) 2 (Two).

(c) Necessary steps for selection and appointment of Presiding Officers to fill up the vacant posts have already been initiated.

Appointments of Sub-Committee for United Language News Agency

1147. SHRI AMARPROSAD CHAKRABORTY:
SHRI S W. DHABE:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether any meeting was called by his Ministry and a sub-committee appointed for making a proposal for unified language news agency;

(b) if so, what are the names of the members of the sub-committee and whether they have submitted any report; and

(c) what are the recommendations made by the committee and Government's action thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI V. N. GADGIL): (a) to (c) Minister of State for Information & Broadcasting convened a meeting of the leading editors and proprietors of language newspapers for the purpose of obtaining consensus for formation of an Indian language News Agency for dissemination of news in Indian languages on June 25 & 26, 1985. At the outset Minister of State for Information & Broadcasting made it clear that the Government do not propose to start any agency nor do the Government want to get involved in the management or functioning of any agency.

The consensus at the meeting was that there is need for an Indian language news agency to meet the requirements of newspapers in Hindi and other Indian languages. The participants also recognised that there is no possibility of reviving Hindustan Samachar and Samachar Bharati.

The meeting was of the unanimous view that it is for the proprietors and editors of newspapers themselves to operate such a news agency service. The proprietors and editors agreed to examine the possibility of raising resources for setting up a viable news agency service in Indian languages. It was also agreed at the meeting that if it was not considered possible to raise adequate resources to set up a separate Indian Language news agency, an alternative could be for the existing English language news agencies to start services in Indian languages also.

Consequent thereto, a Committee of eminent newspapermen under the Chairmanship of Shri Ramnath Goenka was constituted to examine the various aspects of the matter. The following were the members of the Committee:

1. Shri Ramnath Goenka *(Convenor)*
2. Shri N. Narendra
3. Shri Ramesh Chandra
4. Shri Narendra Mohan
5. Shri P. Mohapatra
6. Shri Somasundaram
7. S. M. Aggarwal

The Committee has submitted its report. The following are its specific recommendations:—

(i) The creation of a fullfledged news agency with adequate techno-

logical back up will require at least Rs. 3 crores for capital expenditure and, in addition, recurring expenditure of Rs. 1 crore per year. The Indian language newspapers are not at all in a position to raise even 50 per cent of this capital. Further the running cost of Rs. 1 crore per year cannot be recovered from Hindi|Indian language subscribers.

(ii) On the other hand, if Indian Languages service is added to the infrastructure of an existing news agency, the additional annual cost will be only Rs. 50 lakhs per year. There will be practically no capital cost. This level of annual expenditure can be managed both by newspapers and other subscribers like AIR and Doordarshan. If however, there is still any deficit, the news agency concerned can bear it.

The Government has not yet taken a final view on these recommendations.

Supply of adulterated rice by FCI

1148. SHRI SYED AHMED HASHMI: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that rice full of stones is being supplied by the Food Corporation of India to the shopkeepers of Circle No. 36 etc. in Delhi in July, 1985;

(b) if so, what remedial action Government have taken in this regard;

(c) whether Government propose to issue instructions to the Food Corporation of India to replace such rice; and

(d) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (RAO BIRENDRA SINGH): (a) to (d) According to Delhi Administration, no such case has been reported. The Delhi Administration have, however, issued instructions to replace any inferior quality of rice supplied to the fair price shops to obviate any such incident.

Super Bazar, New Delhi

1149. SHRI SYED AHMED HASHMI: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Super Bazar, New Delhi has given dividends and gifts to its shareholders during the last three years;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(c) if the answer to part (a) above be in the negative, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (RAO BIRENDRA SINGH): (a) to (c) The Cooperative Store Limited, New Delhi popularly known as Super Bazar incurred cumulative losses of Rs. 100.05 lakhs upto the year 1971- 72. After that, the Store has started earning profits and up to the year 1982-83 the accumulated lose was reduced to Rs. 15.75 lakhs. The net profit of Super Bazar for 1983-84 is Rs. 45.85 lakhs (unaudited) and the Question of payment of dividend to its shareholders is under consideration.